



Department of Health Releases Minority Health Plan

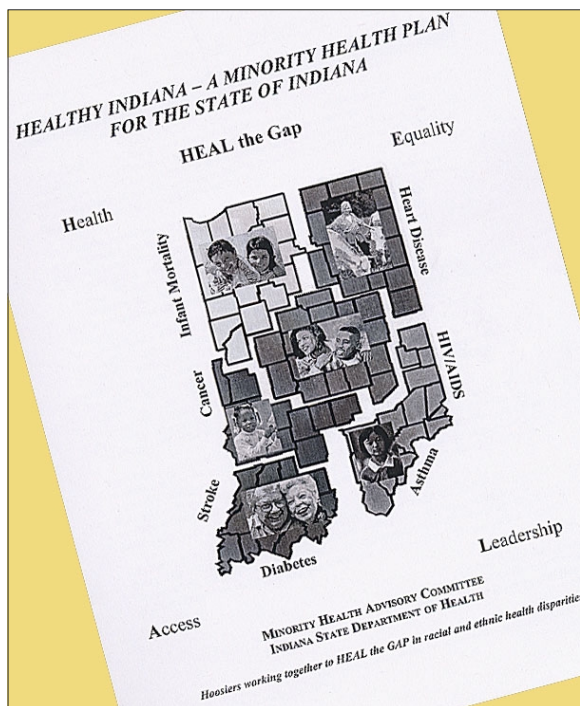
In conjunction with National Minority Health Month, the Indiana State Department of Health released the Healthy Indiana Minority Health Plan on April 22.

"The development of a Minority Health Plan is a very important step in developing a comprehensive State Health Plan," said State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. "It is important that we set goals for removing the barriers that exist in health care and that we track our progress."

The Indiana Minority Health Advisory Committee wrote the Minority Health Plan, using the information in the 2001 State Department of Health's Indiana Minority Health Report. That report compared the leading causes of illness and death among racial and ethnic groups in Indiana with national data.

The Minority Health Report also compared Indiana with Healthy People 2010, a set of health objectives for the nation to achieve in this decade. Healthy People 2010 addresses as one of its two major goals the elimination of health disparities associated with race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

The Healthy Indiana Minority Health Plan's overall approach is to identify and apply relevant objectives, activities, and strategies within existing structures and processes. The Plan includes both general and specific objectives. General objectives are factors like workforce diversity and cultural and linguistic competency. Specific objectives are the seven most



HEALTHY INDIANA—A Minority Health Plan for the State of Indiana focuses on objectives and strategies for reducing the gap in racial and ethnic health disparities in line with Healthy People 2010 benchmarks.

prevalent conditions affecting Indiana's racial and ethnic minority populations: heart disease, cancer, stroke, asthma, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and infant mortality.

"The Minority Health Plan attempts to confront the perplexing issue of racial and ethnic health disparities among Indiana residents by proposing strategies for effective intervention and elimination, with targeted improvement in the health status of Indiana's minority populations," said Edwin C. Marshall, O.D., who chairs the Indiana Minority Health Advisory Committee.

"Our first step was to review the data, the next step is to put a plan in place to address the health gaps that exist in the data," said Danielle L.

Patterson, the director of the Office of Minority Health.

"The Minority Health Plan is intended to be a guide to policy makers, payers, caregivers, and the citizens of Indiana as they continue to tackle such a significant public health problem as racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care," said Dr. Marshall.

The Indiana Minority Health Advisory Committee, which is appointed by the State Health Commissioner, was created in 2000 to provide advice and guidance to the State Department of Health about how to address minority health disparities. The Committee was then charged with the task of proposing a plan to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in Indiana.

Minority Health Plan Offers Implementation Flexibility

In an interview, Edwin Marshall, O.D., M.P.H., chair of the Indiana Minority Health Advisory Committee, said the *Healthy Indiana Minority Health Plan* intentionally offers flexibility for developing specific procedures for achieving the plan's strategic benchmarks.

He said that communities and contracting entities need flexibility to design the specific approaches and procedures that meet their individual needs.

For those seeking guidance for developing procedural approaches for integrating the objectives and strategies detailed in the Minority Health Plan, Dr. Marshall suggested that a study of best practices could offer support as models for the development of procedures.

New ISDH Video to Debut This Spring

While it won't be a red-carpet premiere at a Hollywood theater, select Indiana audiences will soon see the debut of a new show from the Indiana State Department of Health. "Meeting the Challenges," a new video program about ISDH and public health in Indiana, is in the final stages of production.

This nine-minute video features State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. as it emphasizes the ISDH public health mission and highlights initiatives under way to fulfill that mission.

"This video provides an opportunity for us to show the breadth of public health's impact on our society – from preparing for the potential of bioterrorism to reducing the numbers of people with chronic and preventable diseases," Dr. Wilson said. "It also gives us an excellent avenue to remind people about the many successful public health programs ISDH offers to the citizens of Indiana."

The video will be used with a variety of audiences.

ISDH Office of Public Affairs staff will personally deliver the video to each local health department across the state. Because the program conveys basic information about public health in Indiana, it will give local health officers and representatives from their departments a springboard from which to discuss health issues with audiences in their communities.

The video will also be used by



Greg Williams, from Associate Images, videotapes Harlan Bakeries' Mark Roembke and ISDH Wholesale Foods inspector Rhonda Madden, during a shoot for the new ISDH video "Meeting the Challenges."

Photo by Daniel Axler

Dr. Wilson and ISDH representatives as they make presentations to various audiences, including community, civic, and business groups. In addition, *Meeting the Challenges* will serve as an orientation video for new ISDH employees.

Meeting the Challenges includes:

- Information about ISDH bioterrorism preparedness initiatives
- Examples of the ISDH emphasis on improvements in chronic and preventable diseases
- Illustrations of health promotion partnerships among ISDH, local health de-

partments, and other Indiana organizations

- Information about many ISDH program areas, especially those directly accessible by consumers
- Scenes showing clients receiving services at local health clinics
- A segment on the history of the agency, with examples of public health achievements in Indiana
- Examples of the many improvements in ISDH online ser-

vices for consumers and health professionals.

Videotaping for *Meeting the Challenges* took place at many locations, including 2 N. Meridian, the Indiana Veterans' Home, the Tippecanoe Community Health Clinic and County Health Department, and Raphael Health Center in Indianapolis.

Associated Images Moving Picture Production Company created the video for ISDH. Matthew McCardle of the Office of Public Affairs was the program's producer.

Employee screenings of *Meeting the Challenge* are being planned and the program also will be webstreamed on the department's internet site.



TO OBSERVE THE COMPLETION OF THE SEQUENCING OF THE HUMAN GENOME and the 50th anniversary of the description of the double helix, Kirstin Schwandt, director, ISDH Genetics Program (right), describes the genome's molecular structure. On April 25 Schwandt screened a video describing the historic events and discussed details of the ISDH Genetics Program with 30 ISDH staff members.

Photo by Daniel Axler



Indiana State Department of Health **Express**

The *Indiana State Department of Health Express* is a bi-weekly publication for ISDH employees and stakeholders. To submit news items, call (317) 234-2817 or send information to: ISDH Express, Office of Public Affairs, 2 N. Meridian St., Section 6G, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3003. Inquiries should be directed to:

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Special Counsel to the Commissioner



Record Number Turn Out for 'Race'



THE 2003 EDITION OF THE RACE FOR THE CURE T-SHIRT is shown by Kathy Locke following the pre-event breakfast attended by the ISDH Race for the Cure team members. *Photos by Tanya Hammer*

Members of team ISDH turned out in force this year for the *Race for the Cure*. One hundred and thirty-four employees committed themselves to using their money in support of the fight against

breast cancer.

The ISDH team raised a total of \$3000 for donation to the Susan Komen Foundation.

Two days before the race, team mem-

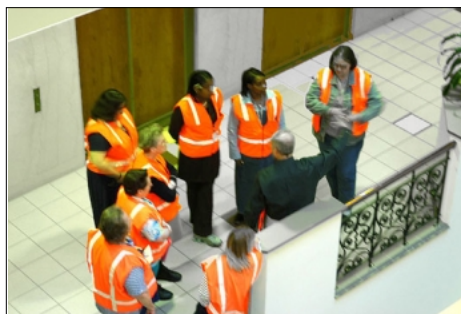


ON RACE DAY (above) Breast and Cervical Cancer staff member Keisha Banks (left) and Inger Borresen, who is serving as a BCCP volunteer for several months during a visit from Norway, pause for a photo at the ISDH booth.

bers enjoyed breakfast and socializing with their dedicated colleagues, and a pep talk from Assistant Commissioner Joni Albright.

Team captain Tanya Hammer said that a number of special door prizes were given away at the breakfast.

Safety Committee Now Has High Visibility



BRIGHTLY ATTIRED group of Safety Committee members (above left) receive a last minute briefing from Administrative Services Director Bill White, prior to a recent fire drill. Marc LoCascio (center) ensures that staff are headed to the island of safety provided by Monument Circle (above right).

Bright new orange vests identify members of the ISDH safety committee, whose visibility attracts attention whenever a fire drill or emergency situation exists. Those wearing the vests have been trained to guide other staff along safe exit routes whenever the need arises.

Bill White, director of Administrative Services, says that the colorful vests replace formerly used hats. The change, he says, is designed to make it easier to see safety staff to help avoid confusion when many people are evacuating the ISDH build-



ings, especially under adverse conditions of fire and smoke. Wearing the vests also supports safer crossings of the traffic lanes of Monument Circle, White said.

Another safety improvement is the newly formed safety subcommittee with the function of checking to ensure that no one has been left behind during building evacuations.

"All active safety committee members now also have been equipped with two-way family radios and flashlights," White said.

Photos by Daniel Axler

Staff and Friends Make the New ISDH Video Possible

State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. may have the most on-camera minutes in the department's new *Meeting the Challenges* video, but its true stars are the many ISDH staff, friends, and families who contributed in so many

ways to make the program possible.

Some ISDH staff simply put up with a video crew interrupting their workday, traipsing through their areas with production equipment and hot lights. Others became part of the video without

warning – recruited to appear in the program as videotaping took place.

Then, there were those who agreed to play “dramatic roles.” For instance, you’ll see Pam Pontones of the Epidemiology Resource Center in the role of mother-to-be in a pre-natal clinic visit. Pam also appears without the padding, as her infant son, Gabriel, receives an immunization.

Others had program roles in their area of professional expertise. Sandy Marcum drove to Lafayette to appear as a long-term care surveyor with Jackie Montgomery-Khatil, R.N. of the Indiana Veterans’ Home. Shirley Vargas and Rhonda Madden traveled to Avon for a wholesale food inspection scene. Ron Clark made a site visit to demonstrate indoor air sampling, and Larry Stump joined the video crew at an Indianapolis gas station to show how fuel pump metering is measured.

Cheryl Million of Public Health Services really went out of her way for this video. She allowed the production crew to commandeer her home for an entire afternoon. In addition, Cheryl convinced her friends, the McCrary family, to appear in several of the program’s scenes, including eating a healthy meal that Cheryl had cooked in advance!

Many others helped with video planning and shooting, including staff at Raphael Health Center in Indianapolis, the Tippecanoe County Health Department and Community Health Clinic, and the Indiana Veterans’ Home.

Express Editor Seeks Active Retirement

David Pilbrow, Office of Public Affairs, who is editor of the *Express*, *NewsLink*, and *Inside Story* employee newsletters, is headed for retirement. His last day was April 30.

“In my retirement I look forward to finishing up all of the details on a remodeling project of my home; getting some new flower beds prepared for my wife Linda, and most of all working as a volunteer in support of a fast-track national energy policy focused on making a full transition from oil to hydrogen—to protect the environment and to reduce the conditions supporting terrorism and war,” Pilbrow said.

Pilbrow has been an editor at ISDH for close to five years, following work at the FSSA Division of Mental Health and earlier as a community resource devel-

oper with the Indiana Department of Correction. He has also worked as an educator and editor in the United Way prison reform agency, Public Action in Correctional Effort.

“In the course of writing my stories, I have truly enjoyed working with and learning about all of the friendly, terrifically dedicated and talented employees at the State Department of Health,” Pilbrow said.

“Being able to be supportive of your work has been the most satisfying part of my job as editor and chief reporter at the *Express*,” he said.



DAVID PILBROW, *Express* editor
Photo by Daniel Axler

In future, all inquiries about the *Express* should be addressed to Jennifer Dunlap who can be reached at 317-233-7090.



ISDH Inside Facts



PROMOTIONS:

Thomas Lauck	3-16-03
Finance	
Shawn Richards	3-30-03
Epidemiology Resource Center	
Linda Sternnock	3-30-03
Epidemiology Resource Center	
Lorraine Cox	4-13-03
Acute Care	
Bess Godard	4-13-03
Children with Special Health Care Needs	
David Fields	4-13-03
HIV/STD	
Gary Judson	4-13-03
Finance	
Babu Maharjan	4-13-03
Laboratory Resource Center	
Daniel Miller	4-13-03
Food Protection	
Pennelope Schreiber	4-13-03
Finance	

NEWLY HIRED:

Lisa Mani	3-17-03
HIPAA	
Janelli Salomon-Angeles	3-17-03
Laboratory Resource Center	

Elizabeth Gordon	3-31-03
Finance	
Pu Han	3-31-03
External Information Services	
Gregory Williams	3-31-03
Administrative Services	
Marilyn Craft	4-14-03
Chronic Disease	
Corey Ealy	4-14-03
Vital Records	
Linda Jones	4-14-03
Epidemiology Resource Center	
Mokbul-Khan	4-14-03
Epidemiology Resource Center	

SEPARATIONS:

Keri Karris	3-28-03
Sanitary Engineering	
Shawn Cody	3-29-03
Assets Services Center	
Tonya Black	3-31-03
Long-Term Care	
Margaret Kerns	3-31-03
Long-Term Care	
Patrica Yehle	3-31-03
Long-Term Care	



Indiana State
Department of Health

**Inside
Story**

The *Indiana State Department of Health Inside Story* is a monthly publication for ISDH employees. To submit news items, call (317) 233-7336 or send information to: ISDH Inside Story, Office of Public Affairs, 2 N. Meridian St., Section 2E, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3003. Inquiries should be directed to:

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